

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124513
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DHA-02 SP-02 SSO-00 IO-13
NSC-05 PM-04 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 L-03 /063 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH :RSDRISCOLL :MG
APPROVED BY D :MR. CHRISTOPHER
ARA :FJDEVINE
DHA:MSCHNEIDER
S/P:RFEINBERG

-----281840Z 119102 /42

O 281822Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124513

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA CALLS ON DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER

1. AT 3:30 P.M. MAY 27, EX-FOREIGN MINISTER CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY. ACCOMPANYING ALMEYDA WERE LUIS MAIRA AND JAIME BARROS. SCHNEIDER, D/HA OXMAN, D, BARNEBEY, ARA/AND AND DESK OFFICER DRISCOLL PARTICIPATED ON THE STATE SIDE.
2. DEPUTY SECRETARY OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT ALMEYDA AND HE HAD A MUTUAL FRIEND, RAMSEY CLARK. HE ASKED WHERE ALMEYDA HAD MET HIM. ALMEYDA REPLIED THAT HE HAD MET HIM EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR CHILE HE SAID THAT CLARK WAS A GREAT FRIEND OF CHILE.

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3. DEPUTY SECRETARY INQUIRED AS TO ALMEYDA'S HEALTH, ASKING IF HIS EXPERIENCE IN PRISON HAD AFFECTED HIM. ALMEYDA REPLIED THAT, FORTUNATELY, HIS TIME IN PRISON HAD NOT AFFECTED HIM. HE SAID HE IS NOW WORKING WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM THAN EVER FOR HIS CAUSE. HE SAID THAT HE IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN EVER TO HELP HIS COUNTRY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

4. DEPUTY SECRETARY THEN SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WANTED WIDE CONTACTS, NOT JUST LIMITED TO THE GOVERNMENT SO AS TO UNDERSTAND THE GREAT FORCES AT WORK AROUND THE GLOBE, AND IN THE HEMISPHERE. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A KEYSTONE OF ITS POLICY, AND HE HAD BEEN WORKING A GREAT DEAL IN THIS AREA. HE TOLD ALMEYDA THAT HE WOULD VALUE HIS ADVICE ON HOW THE U.S. MIGHT BEST ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. ALMEYDA RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS PRECISELY. HE REMARKED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT WANT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CHILE IN THE FORMULATION OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

6. MR. CHRISTOPHER REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S LAW DAY SPEECH. THE SPEECH, IN DEFINING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, WENT FAR BEYOND THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IT ALSO ENCOMPASSED SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS. THE U.S. WANTS TO PURSUE THIS POLICY EFFECTIVELY, RECOGNIZING THE LIMITS OF PROPRIETY AND OUR POWER.

7. ALMEYDA ANSWERED THAT THIS WAS PRECISELY WHY HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE TO PRESENT HIS OPINIONS. HIS CONCLUSION AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT WAS THAT A REPRESSIVE AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ATMOSPHERE IS A NECESSITY FOR THE JUNTA. THUS, THERE CAN BE NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION WITHOUT BASIC STRUCTURAL CHANGES. THE BASIC CONCEPT BEHIND THE JUNTA
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IS FUNDAMENTALLY ANTI-DEMOCRATIC. THE IDEA IS THAT AN ELITE IS THE MOST ABLE -- INDEED IT HAS A MISSION -- TO DIRECT THE COUNTRY. THE CONCEPT IS FRANCOIST, UNIVERSALIST, CONSERVATIVE-CATHOLIC. IT SEES NO VALUE IN THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. ANY DEMOCRATIC SIGNALS FROM THE JUNTA ARE MERE PROPAGANDA. THE PROOF IS THAT AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IS STILL VERY BAD.

8. MR. CHRISTOPHER THEN ASKED HIM FOR HIS EVALUATION OF THE TREND IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

9. IN ANSWERING, ALMEYDA NOTED THAT IN MARCH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD BEEN OUTLAWED AND ITS PROPERTY CONFISCATED. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD, PRESIDENT PINOCHET MADE A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID THAT POLITICAL PARTIES WERE DEFINITELY BANNED IN CHILE. THEN ALMEYDA NOTED THE CLOSING OF RADIO BALMACEDA AND THE GOC INSPIRED CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP IN "ERCILLA" WHICH GAVE THE GOVERNMENT A MONOPOLY OVER THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINTED MEDIA. IN

SPITE OF THE DECEMBER RESOLUTION IN THE U.N. GENERAL

ASSEMBLY AND THE MARCH RESOLUTION IN THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, THE JUNTA HAS GIVEN PRACTICALLY NO EXPLANATION FOR THE "DISAPPEARED." INDEED, DURING THIS MONTH OF MAY THERE HAD BEEN A NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION. HE HAD WITH HIM A LIST OF 18 RECENTLY DISAPPEARED PEOPLE, SOME OF WHOM WERE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE JUNTA'S LABOR POLICY. THUS, A CORRECT JUDGMENT WOULD SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE. ON THE CONTRARY, REPRESSION HAS BECOME INSTITUTIONALIZED.

10. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THANKED HIM FOR A PRECISE, WELL ORGANIZED STATEMENT. HE THEN ASKED SCHNEIDER IF HE HAD ANY COMMENT. SCHNEIDER SAID HE FIRST MET ALMEYDA WHILE HE WAS DETAINED IN 1974. HE ASKED IF ALMEYDA HAD ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW THE U.S. COULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE.

11. ALMEYDA REPLIED THAT THE WEAK POINT OF THE JUNTA WAS DINA AND ITS ROLE IN THE PROBLEM OF THE DISAPPEARED. HE NOTED THAT THE JUDICIARY WAS TAKING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS PROBLEM. IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO DEMAND AN EXPLANATION, THIS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. TO THE EXTENT THE JUNTA IS OBLIGATED TO EXPLAIN, THIS WILL START A LIBERALIZING PROCESS IN CHILE.

12. MR. CHRISTOPHER REPLIED THAT HE CERTAINLY HOPED THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. HOWEVER, THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF DIRECTLY INTERVENING IN CHILE. WE ARE DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO WORK FOR AN IMPROVEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF DUE PROCESS, THE STATE OF SIEGE AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. WHILE NOTING THAT THEY WERE NOT PARALLEL, THE CASES OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL PERHAPS OFFERED SOME HOPE. THEY SHOWED THAT THE PROCESS IS NOT IRREVERSIBLE.

13. ALMEYDA POINTED OUT THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS WOULD TAKE PLACE SOME 15 DAYS FROM NOW IN GRENADA. THE INTER AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT ON CHILE WAS A VERY COMPLETE DOCUMENT DESCRIBING THE CONTINUING PROBLEM. IT OFFERS A CHANCE FOR THE AMERICAN STATES TO PRESS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN CHILE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REMARKED THAT HE HAD SEEN A LONG SUMMARY OF THE DOCUMENT AND IT WAS AS ALMEYDA DESCRIBED IT. HE SAID IT WAS A VERY DISCOURAGING DOCUMENT IN MANY RESPECTS.

14. ALMEYDA WENT ON, SAYING THAT THE ATTITUDE -- THE

DISPOSITION -- OF THE U.S. HAS GREAT IMPACT IN CHILE.
THE JUNTA IS WEAKENED WHEN IT FEELS IT CANNOT COUNT ON

THE U.S. NOBODY WANTS DIRECT U.S. INTERVENTION. BUT
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17. UPON LEAVING, ALMEYDA LEFT A MEMORANDUM FOR MR.
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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 /021 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:DSCHIELE:TF

APPROVED BY:IO:ESWOPE

ARA/AND:RDRISCOLL

-----020356Z 030612 /23

R 020215Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124513

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 124513 ACTION SANTIAGO DATED MAY 28:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124513

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, EXILES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: RSDRISCOLL :MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D770192-0016
Format: TEL
From: STATE
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977055/aaaaaejr.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA CALLS ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CI, US, (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), (ALMEYDA, CLODOMIRO)
To: SANTIAGO
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